

Appln. No. 10/019,400
Amdt. dated May 27, 2005
Reply to Office Action of November 30, 2004

REMARKS

Please enter this Amendment and then reconsider the rejections before passing this case to an allowance.

Claim Amendments

Claims 1, 5, 13, and 14 as amended more clearly define the arrangement of the hygroscopic material layers located between their respective moisture-permeable material layer and screen material layer at the peripheral areas where the first moisture-permeable layer and the second moisture-permeable layer are fixed to each other. These amendments are supported in the original specification throughout. Attention is directed to, for instance, page 8, lines 5-15, page 12, line 9 to page 16, line 24, and Fig. 1.

New claims 18-22 are based on the original claims and the original specification throughout. Attention is directed to, for example, page 12, lines 14-15, and Fig. 1.

Interview Summary

Applicants' representative acknowledges the courtesies extended and the constructive comments from the Examiner during the telephonic interview conducted on May 26, 2005.

Applicants submit that the references did not disclose or suggest the features in proposed amended claims 1, 5, 13 and 14, or new claims 18-22.

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Please reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 1-4.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of amended claims 1- 4 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Yuichi (JP 04-189779A) in view of Caggiano (U.S. Patent No. 4,861,632) and Wilking (U.S. Patent No. 5,698,217). Applicants submit that the above claims are not unpatentable over the above combination of references.

The Yuichi document lacks or does not expressly disclose, at least, that the first hygroscopic material layer is located between the first moisture-permeable material layer and the first screen material layer, and the second hygroscopic material layer is located between the second moisture-permeable material layer and the second screen material layer at the peripheral areas where the sheets are fixed to one another.

The Yuichi document apparently discloses a bag made from one sheet having three layers. The Yuichi document does not apparently disclose or suggest two sheets. The Yuichi document does not apparently disclose or suggest that the two sheets are fixed together at the peripheral areas.

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The amended claims are considered patentable over the prior art Yuichi reference, and the combination suggested by the Examiner. The addition of Caggiano and Wilking does not overcome the above-stated deficiency of Yuichi.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection.

Please reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 5 and 13-17.

Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of claims 5 and 13-17 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Wilking (U.S. Patent No. 5,698,217) in view of Yuichi (JP 04-189779A) and Tsukahara et al. (JP H-7-28850). Applicants submit that the claims, as amended, are not unpatentable over the above combination of references.

The Wilking document lacks or does not expressly disclose, at least, that the first hygroscopic material layer is located between the first moisture-permeable material layer and the first screen material layer, and the second hygroscopic material layer is located between the second moisture-permeable material layer and the second screen material layer at the peripheral areas where the sheets are fixed to one another.

The amended claims are considered patentable over the prior art Wilking reference, and the combination suggested by the Examiner. The addition of

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Yuichi and Tsukahara does not overcome the above-stated deficiency of Wilking.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 5, 13-17 would not have been suggested to a person of only ordinary skill in the art by Wilking alone or in combination with Yuichi and Tsukahara et al.

Conclusion:

Applicants submit that the above pending claims are now in condition for allowance and earnestly solicit such Notice.

Respectfully submitted,

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